

Message Text

SECRET

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 011936

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO

SUBJECT: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: REPORT
NUMBER 10

REF: STATE 10646 (SECRET/EXDIS)

FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE FROM A. FISHLOW, ACTING

1. MPLA TROOPS CONTINUE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN
NORTHWEST ANGOLA AGAINST THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBER-
ATION OF ANGOLA (FNLA). THE MPLA ADVANCE IS THREATENING
THE LAST FNLA STRONGHOLD, SANTO ANTONIO DO ZAIRE, LOCATED
IN THE NORTHWEST TIP OF ANGOLA. MPLA TROOPS ARE ALSO
THREATENING FNLA POSITIONS NEAR THE ANGOLA-ZAIRE BORDER.
FNLA RESISTANCE APPEARS TO BE COLLAPSING. IF THE MPLA DE-
FEATS THE FNLA, MPLA LEADERS CAN TURN MANY MORE TROOPS
AGAINST THE FORCES OF THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL IN-

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DEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA (UNITA) IN THE SOUTH.

2. FIGHTING HAS RESUMED IN THE OIL-RICH PROVINCE OF CABINDA. MPLA FORCES ARE TRYING TO COUNTER ATTACKS BY TROOPS OF THE FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE ENCLAVE OF CABINDA (FLEC), A CABINDAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT SUPPORTED BY ZAIRE.

3. REPORTEDLY, CUBA HAS IMPLEMENTED A PLAN TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN MOBUTU SESE SEKO, PRESIDENT OF ZAIRE, AND HOLDEN ROBERTO, LEADER OF THE FNLA. THE CUBAN PLAN IS DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE ROBERTO AS A POLITICAL LEADER WHILE SAVING FACE FOR MOBUTU.

4. DURING THE FIRST HALF OF JANUARY, CUBA SUPPORTED ITS ANGOLAN OPERATIONS WITH 13 AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS, INCLUDING NINE BY IL-62'S, THREE BY BRISTOL BRITANNIAS, AND ONE BY AN IL-18. ONE BRITANNIA RETURNING TO CUBA AND THE IL-18, WHICH WAS EN ROUTE TO AFRICA, TRANSITED THE AIRPORT AT GANDER, NEWFOUNDLAND. BETWEEN 1 JANUARY AND 15 JANUARY, AS MANY AS SEVEN CUBAN SHIPS WERE POSSIBLY SAILING TO ANGOLA.

5. THE DELEGATION OF MPLA LEADERS WHICH HAS BEEN TOURING THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN MEXICO CITY ON 16 JANUARY FROM LIMA, PERU. THE DELEGATION LEFT PANAMA FOR LIMA ON 10 JANUARY.

6. DURING A NEWS CONFERENCE ON 15 JANUARY, CUBAN PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO RUZ SAID FOR THE FIRST TIME PUBLICLY THAT CUBAN SOLDIERS ARE IN ANGOLA. HE ALSO SAID THAT CUBAN TROOPS HAVE SUFFERED CASUALTIES, BUT HE DID NOT PROVIDE ANY DETAILS. KISSINGER

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